

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

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----- 061144

P R 241400Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2610

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1156

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: MAURITANIA AIRLIFT

REF: STATE 184119, NOUAKCHOTT 1102 AND 1108 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: APPROACHED MINHEALTH AUGUST 23 RE GIRM PAYMENT SUPPORT COSTS BAMAKO-BASED AIRLIFT AND HE READILY AGREED TO FORMULA OUTLINED STATE REFTEL. THIS AND OTHER LATEST DETAILS AIRLIFT PREPARATIONS OUTLINED BELOW. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY BAMAKO COORDINATE WITH GIRM CONSUL GENERAL ASSURE THAT GOM AND GIRM COME TO AGREEMENT ON COSTS AND METHODS PAYMENT FOR CREW LODGING, FOOD AND LOCAL TRANSPORT, AS WELL AS WAIVER FUEL TAXES AND LANDING FEES.

1. AADO AND I DISCUSSED AIRLIFT SUPPORT COSTS WITH MINHEALTH OULD BAH ON AUGUST 23 AND MINISTER READILY AGREED GIRM WOULD FOOT BILL FOR A) AIRCREW LODGING, GROUND TRANSPORT AND FOOD, AND B) PICK UP COSTS FUEL TAXES AND LANDING FEES IF THESE NOT WAIVED BY GOM. MINISTER ALSO AGREED TO INSTRUCT GIRM CONGEN BAMAKO TO CONTACT MALIANS ASCERTAIN COSTS AND MAKE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DIRECT PAYMENTS ABOVE
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SERVICES, AS WELL AS SEEK WAIVER GOM C-130 LANDING FEES

AND FUEL TAXES. WILL FORMALLY NOTIFY GIRM OF ALL ABOVE AND OTHER DETAILS AIRLIFT BY DIP NOTE.

2. FOR BAMAKO: ASSUME GOM WILL CONTINUE HOUSE AIRCREW AT HOTEL DEL'AMITIE AND SUPPLY CATERING, GROUND TRANSPORT AND OTHER SERVICES WITHOUT INTERRUPTION AS MALI AIRLIFT PHASES OUT AND MAURITANIAN EFFORT BEGINS. ABOVE WAS PATTERN FOLLOWED DURING LAST YEAR'S AIRLIFT, WHEN TWO USAF C-130S FLEW FROM BAMAKO TO EASTERN MAURITANIA. GOM ALSO AGREED LAST YEAR TO WAIVE FUEL TAXES AND LANDING FEES FOR THAT SEGMENT MAURITANIAN AIRLIFT BASED BAMAKO. ASSUME THEY WILL DO SO AGAIN THIS YEAR AND HAVE SO INFORMED MINHEALTH, WHO WILL INSTRUCT GIRM CONGEN CONFIRM ALL ABOVE WITH GOM. REQUEST EMBASSY FOLLOW UP WITH BOTH GIRM CONGEN AND GOM ASSURE ABOVE SERVICES PROVIDED AND THAT FIRM AGREEMENT REACHED ON METHOD OF PAYMENT. MINHEALTH STATED GIRM WOULD INSTRUCT MAURITANIAN CENTRAL BANK TRANSFER SUPPORT COST PAYMENTS TO GOM ONCE GOM SUPPLIES FIRM COST DATA. MINISTER WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING ASAP APPROXIMATE COST SERVICES PARA ONE ABOVE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. CAN EMBASSY ESTIMATE AVERAGE WEEKLY COSTS FOR LODGING, FOOD AND GROUND TRANSPORT?

3. AT SAME AUGUST 23 MEETING, ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY REVIEW OTHER AIRLIFT ARRANGEMENTS WITH MINISTER AND CONFIRM VERBAL AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING LAST WEEK'S VISIT OF JTF COMMANDER FASSETT. MINISTER CONFIRMED HE DESPATCHING 14 (NOT TEN AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED) TEN-TON TRUCKS ASSURE EVACUATION AIRLIFTED GRAIN FROM NEMA AIRSTRIP AND DISTRIBUTION TO INTERIOR FIRST REGION. HE ALSO SENDING TWO FUEL TANK TRUCKS AND FUEL STORAGE TANKS TO NEMA. CONVOYS ALL ABOVE VEHICLES DEPARTED NOUAKCHOTT FOR NEMA MID-WEEK THIS WEEK. MINISTER ALSO PLANS DESPATCH ARMY OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR GRAIN TRANSPORT TO NEMA COORDINATE AIRLIFT AND GROUND TRANSPORT MATTERS DURING INITIAL PHASE OPERATION. MOH HAS ALSO REQUESTED CIV AVIATION AUTHORITIES BE ON HAND NEMA TO EFFECT ANY WORK NEEDED TO REPAIR ANY DAMAGE TO RUNWAY CAUSED BY CONTINUED STRESS OF HEAVILY LOADED C-130S.

4. FOR OUR PART, MISSION WILL SUPPLY PCV DIESEL MECHANIC ASSURE REPAIRS TO FIRST REGION TRUCK FLEET AND SECOND PCV
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SERVE AS INTERPRETER AND TROUBLE-SHOOTER ASSIST AIRCREWS AT NEMA AIRPORT. ACTING AADO ALSO PLANS FAMILIARIZATION VISIT NEMA COINCIDE WITH BEGINNING AIRLIFT AND WILL BE AVAILABLE ASSIST JTF CREWS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS IN GETTING OPERATIONS OFF TO GOOD START. SHURTLEFF

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